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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE SUPERVISOR ARRESTED FOR EXTORTION**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Elenita Siozon, age 53, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland was arrested and charged by criminal complaint yesterday with extortion by a federal officer or employee.

The arrest was the result of a criminal investigation which began after an employee reported to law enforcement authorities that Siozon had arranged for the employee to receive a \$9,000 hiring bonus, then demanded that the employee give her \$2,000 in return. The employee paid Siozon \$2,000 on September 27, 2002. When Siozon again approached the employee about an additional payment, the employee agreed to meet with her to give her the money. The exchange of money was conducted yesterday under the surveillance of law enforcement authorities who then arrested Siozon.

If convicted, Siozon faces a sentence of up to 3 years and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment/complaint is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The investigation was conducted jointly by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Donna C. Sanger.